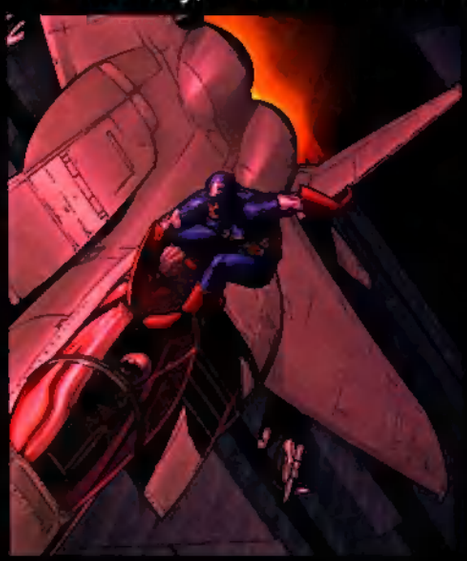
CIVIL WAR

Hoping to boost their ratings, four New Warriors--young super heroes and reality television stars--attempt to apprehend a quartet of villains holed up in Stamford, Connecticut. When confronted, the explosive Nitro employs his self-detonation ability, blowing the heroes and a large chunk of Stamford into oblivion. The entire incident is caught on tape.

Casualties number in the hundreds.

In response to this tragedy, public sentiment is turning against super heroes. Johnny Storm, the Human Torch, is attacked outside a nightclub and beaten into a coma. Advocate Miriam Sharpe, who lost her son in the Stamford Disaster, calls for reform in the way super heroes conduct their affairs. On Capitol Hill, a Superhuman Registration Act is debated which would require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulging their true identities to the authorities and submitting to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents.

Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society, and a reasonable request. Others, embodied by Captain America, take umbrage at this assault on their civil liberties.



When Captain America is called upon to hunt down his fellow heroes who are in defiance of the Registration Act, he chooses to go AWOL, becoming a public enemy in the process.

In a closed-door meeting with the President and his Cabinet, Iron Man, Mr. Fantastic and Yellowjacket vow to bring Cap to ground.

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MORE BAD GUYS, UNIT FIVE?
TWO UP HERE, AND THE BOYS DOWNSTAIRS SAY THEY'VE GOT THE TRAPSTER CHAINED TO A SINK IN THE MEN'S ROOM.
HOW MANY DOES THE VULTURE AND THE GRIM REAPER TAKE HIM UP TO, COMMANDER HILL? IS THAT EIGHT OF THESE FREAKS, OR NINE?
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER, SIX MILES ABOVE NEW YORK CITY:
FIFTEEN, SERGEANT. FIFTEEN SUPER-CRIMINALS INSIDE SEVENTY-TWO HOURS.
BUT THE NUMBERS DON'T ADD UP. THERE'S JUST NO WAY CAPTAIN AMERICA COULD'VE TAKEN DOWN ALL THESE GUYS AT ONCE. IT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
MEANING?
OUR NIGHTMARE SCENARIO, UNIT FIVE.
I DON'T THINK HE'S ON HIS OWN ANYMORE.

New York Times

REGISTRATION ACT PASSED BY CONGRESS

DAILY BUGLE

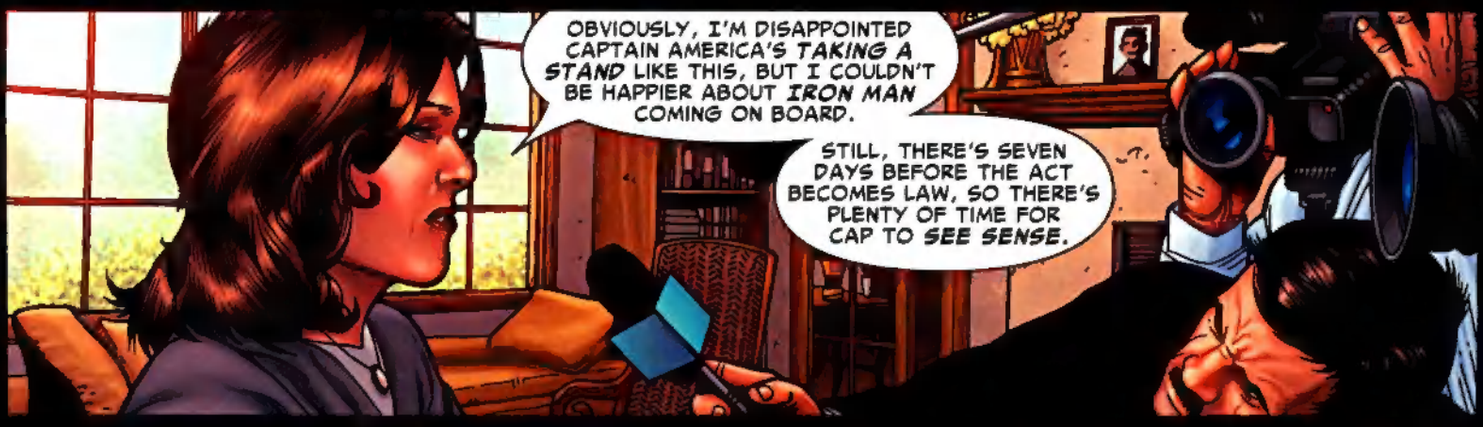
CAPTAIN AMERICA GOES INTO HIDING

The Boston Globe

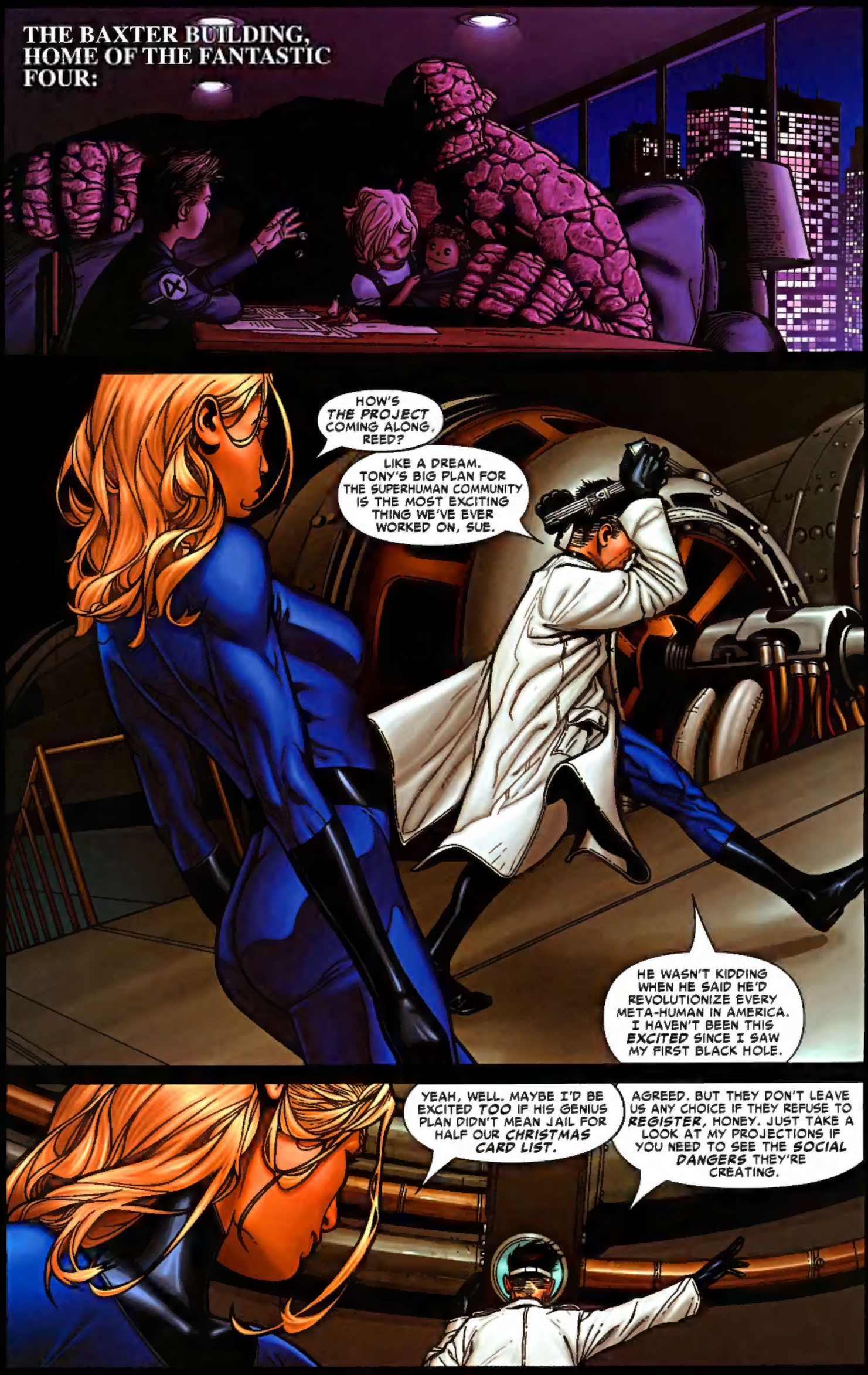
PRESIDENT PROMISES SWIFT ACTION

The Washington Post

TONY STARK NOW BACKING SUPER HERO REFORM


OBVIOUSLY, I'M DISAPPOINTED CAPTAIN AMERICA'S *TAKING A STAND* LIKE THIS, BUT I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER ABOUT *IRON MAN* COMING ON BOARD.
STILL, THERE'S SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE ACT BECOMES LAW, SO THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR CAP TO *SEE SENSE*.

HEAR THAT? THAT'S THE SOUND OF PEOPLE STARTING TO BELIEVE IN SUPER HEROES AGAIN.
WILL WE STILL TECHNICALLY BE SUPER HEROES AFTER ALL THIS, TONY? WON'T WE JUST BE S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS WHEN WE'RE ALL ON THE FEDERAL PAYROLL?
NO, WE'RE SUPER HEROES, JENNIFER. WE TACKLE SUPER-CRIME AND WE SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES.
THE ONLY THING CHANGING IS THAT THE KIDS, THE AMATEURS, AND THE SOCIOPATHS ARE GETTING WEEDED OUT.
WHAT CATEGORY DOES CAPTAIN AMERICA FALL INTO, IRON MAN?
HE'S WRONG THIS TIME, TIGRA.
TRUST ME.


THE BAXTER BUILDING, HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR:
HOW'S THE PROJECT COMING ALONG, REED?
LIKE A DREAM. TONY'S BIG PLAN FOR THE SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY IS THE MOST EXCITING THING WE'VE EVER WORKED ON, SUE.
HE WASN'T KIDDING WHEN HE SAID HE'D REVOLUTIONIZE EVERY META-HUMAN IN AMERICA. I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS EXCITED SINCE I SAW MY FIRST BLACK HOLE.
YEAH, WELL. MAYBE I'D BE EXCITED TOO IF HIS GENIUS PLAN DIDN'T MEAN JAIL FOR HALF OUR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST.
AGREED. BUT THEY DON'T LEAVE US ANY CHOICE IF THEY REFUSE TO REGISTER, HONEY. JUST TAKE A LOOK AT MY PROJECTIONS IF YOU NEED TO SEE THE SOCIAL DANGERS THEY'RE CREATING.

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT? THIS IS GOBBLEDYGOOK.
NO, IT'S THE EXPONENTIAL CURVE THE NUMBER OF SUPER-BEINGS IS FOLLOWING AND THE *APOCALYPSE* WE'RE FACING IF UNLICENSED ACTIVITY ISN'T BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.
TONY'S SECRET PLAN IS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR US, DARLING.
YOU SHOULD HEAR THE IDEAS HE AND *HANK PYM* HAVE BEEN TOSSING AROUND. THEY'RE LIKE *CONCEPT-MACHINES*. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER *SEEN* PEOPLE THIS SUPER-CHARGED.
WHAT'S THIS *"NUMBER FORTY-TWO"* THING...?
I'M SORRY, SUSAN, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT'S *CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.*
OH.
RIGHT.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME I WAS MAKING TRACKS FOR THE HOSPITAL *ANYWAY*, HUH?
MM.
GIVE *JOHNNY* ALL MY *LOVE.*

THE DAILY BUGLE:
J.
JONAH, WE JUST GOT WORD ABOUT A HUGE PRESS CONFERENCE TONY STARK IS HOLDING TOMORROW MORNING. URICH IS IN, BUT PARKER'S *OUT OF TOWN*. WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEND IN HIS *PLACE*?
JONAH?
SORRY, ROBBIE. MILES AWAY.
JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW, AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, EVERYTHING THIS NEWSPAPER HAS EVER *CAMPAIGNED FOR* OFFICIALLY BECOMES *LAW*.
NO MORE *MASKS* AND NO MORE EXCUSES ABOUT CREEPY *SECRET IDENTITIES*. THESE CLOWNS FINALLY *WORK FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.* OR THEY THROW THEIR BUTTS IN *JAIL*.
YOU REALLY THINK THE SUPER HEROES ARE ALL GOING TO *SIGN UP*?
NO.
JUST THE SMART ONES.

TONY STARK'S PENTHOUSE:
TWENTY MINUTES TO GO, TONY. WORD FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. IS THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT THIRTY-EIGHT SIGNATURES ALREADY. THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT YOU ESTIMATED, RIGHT?
PRETTY MUCH, HAPPY. ANY WORD FROM CAP?
ONLY THAT HE'S PUTTING HIS OWN TEAM TOGETHER AND HE'LL SEE THIS THING TO THE FINISH.
OH, GOD.
PLEASE LET US BE DOING THE RIGHT THING HERE...
MIDNIGHT:
REGISTRATION ACT BECOMES LAW
SONY
REGISTRATION ACT BECOMES LAW REGISTRATION

24 HOURS LATER:
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.
UNREGISTERED MINOR TRIED TO FOIL A ROBBERY IN COSTUME, AIR-COMMAND. IDENTIFIED AS CODENAME PATRIOT FROM THE YOUNG AVENGERS. AM CURRENTLY IN PURSUIT.
ROGER THAT, FOXTROT-FOUR. PERMISSION TO USE TRANQUILIZERS AND MINIMUM FORCE.

GUYS, WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! S.H.I.E.L.D. JUST CAUGHT ME BREAKING UP A MUGGING, AND NOW THEY'RE ALL OVER ME!
THIS IS SERIOUS! THESE GUYS ARE NOT MESSING AROUND!

OH, BOY--

YOU SURE THAT KID'S INDESTRUCTIBLE?
HE'LL BE FINE. IT'S THE OFFICE BLOCK I'M WORRIED ABOUT, DUDE. COMMAND SAID PROPERTY DAMAGE GOTTA BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM OR IT'S HEAD-ROLLING TIME.
YOU SEE THE TROUBLE YOU CAUSED? YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY TO BE SOME BIG BAD VIGILANTE LIKE YOUR BUDDY, CAPTAIN AMERICA?

ELSEWHERE:
S.H.I.E.L.D. UNIT JUST PICKED UP THE YOUNG AVENGERS ON WEST 23RD. SHOULD WE GET A POSSE TOGETHER AND INTERCEPT?
CAP AND THE FALCON ARE ALREADY UNDERCOVER ON THE SCENE, DAREDEVIL. COCKY MISTER WILSON EVEN TOLD ME TO GET THE DAMN COFFEE ON.

SON OF A--!
WICCAN, I NEED YOU TO RUSTLE UP ONE OF YOUR TELEPORTATION SPELLS AND I NEED IT NOW. UNDERSTAND?
Y-YES, SIR.
ATTENTION ALL UNITS IN THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE AREA! SUSPECTED HIJACKING OF S.H.I.E.L.D. BUS ONE!
PLEASE ATTEND! I REPEAT: PLEASE ATTEND!

COPS ARE BLOCKING THE ROAD ALREADY, FALCON!
WOULD YOU HURRY UP WITH THAT FREAKIN' SPELL?
IWANTTO BESOMEWHERE ELSEIWANTTO BESOMEWHERE ELSE...
LUNATICS ARE GONNA KILL THEMSELVES! BLOCK THE ROAD AND STAND WELL BACK!
ROGER THAT, AIR-SUPPORT!
IWANTTO BESOMEWHERE ELSEIWANTTO BESOMEWHERE ELSE...

CONGRATULATIONS, CHILDREN.

YOU JUST JOINED THE *RESISTANCE.*

WHAT...WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

S.H.I.E.L.D. SAFE HOUSE NUMBER TWENTY-THREE. ONE OF TWENTY-EIGHT SUCH PLACES PEPPERING THE GLOBE AND ONLY KNOWN TO THIRTY-THIRD-DEGREE S.H.I.E.L.D. OFFICERS.

AND HOW MANY OF *THEM* ARE THERE EXACTLY?

JUST NICK FURY.

HE'S UNDERGROUND NOW TOO, AND CAN ONLY BE CONTACTED VIA SCRAMBLER-PHONE, BUT HE SAID WE COULD USE THIS PLACE FOR AS LONG AS WE LIKE. AND HE'S ALREADY WORKING ON OUR NEW SECRET I.D.S.

WHY DO WE NEED NEW SECRET IDENTITIES?

YOUR OLD ONES ARE PROBABLY COMPROMISED, PATRIOT, AND YOU'RE GOING TO NEED *SOMEWHERE* TO HIDE WHEN WE AREN'T OUT THERE KICKING ASS AND TAKING NAMES.

THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE FOR THE *DURATION.*

TONY'S CREW IS PLANNING SOMETHING *HUGE* OUT THERE, AND THIS IS WHERE WE START TO *FIGHT BACK.*

GUYS, I THINK YOU BETTER *SEE* THIS...

WASHINGTON, D.C.:
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MRS. MIRIAM SHARPE.
MRS. SHARPE, YOU MAY RECALL, LOST HER SON IN THE STAMFORD INCIDENT AND KICK-STARTED MY PASSION FOR THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OF ALL SUPER HEROES.
HELL'S GOING ON NOW...?
LIKEWISE, I'M PRETTY SURE SPIDER-MAN NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION...
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE, TONY...